

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 01499 231305Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-06 L-03 H-01 HA-05

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /049 W

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O 231124Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2360

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CARR, SOPN, UK, GH (LANGE, JAMES GORDON)

SUBJ: DETENTION IN GHANA OF JAMES GORDON LANGE

REF: A) LONDON 02919; B) ACCRA 1395; C) ACCRA 1261;

D) ACCRA 1#05

1. FOLLOWING LANGE'S DETENTION ON FEBRUARY 13, AMBASSADOR REPEATEDLY CONTACTED FIRST MID-LEVEL AND THEN SENIOR OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA), INCLUDING COMMISSIONER FELLI HIMSELF. MFA OFFICIALS EVENTUALLY INDICATED MATTER WAS OUT OF THEIR HANDS AND SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR CARRY IT TO HIGHER LEVELS. HOWEVER, HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG AND MANY OF HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES LEFT FEBRUARY 19 FOR POLITICAL TOUR OF ASHANTI REGION AND HENCE CANFBT BE REACHED. IN MEETING WITH ATTORNEY-GENERAL FEBRUARY 21, AG TOLD AMBASSADOR HE HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT CASE BUT PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT.

2. AS REPORTED REF B, DURING LANGE'S SIX-DAY CONFINEMENT HE WAS VISITED BY CONSULAR OFFICER ON FOUR OCCASIONS. DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY CONSULAR OFFICER, CHEIF OF SPECIAL BRANCH (POLICE) REFUSED TO

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DISCUSS DETAILS OF CASE, STATING ONLY THAT LANGE WAS "SUBVERSIVE."

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE LANGE RAN AFOUL OF INFLUENTIAL LEFTIST EDITOR OF GOG-OWNED GHANAIAI TIMES, WHO IS KNOWN FOR HIS ANTI-AMERICAN VIEWS AND WHO RECENTLY MOUNTED A MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST ALLEGED CIA AND BRITISH

INTELLIGENCE INTERVENTION IN GHANA (REF D). HE HAS
RUN ONE EDITORIAL ON LANGE'S ACTIVITIES HERE AND
MAY WELL HAVE WANTED TO MAKE LANGE A SCAPEGOAT.
EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE CASE WITH APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS.

4. REQUEST TEXT OF AP STORY WHEN AND IF PUBLISHED.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780225/aaaaauoj.tel
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Message ID: 08759ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Reference: 78 LONDON 2919, 78 ACCRA 1395, 78 ACCRA 1261
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